



# City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

## Seattle Women's Commission

January 24, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to urge your support of SB 6370.

In 1995, state statute created a grant account, funded by fees assessed against persons convicted for prostitution offenses. The funds in that account were to be used to create and deliver:

Services that are effective prevention or intervention services, such as counseling, parenting, housing, education and vocation training with the goal of 1) comprehensively addressing the problems of persons who are prostitutes and 2) enhancing the ability of persons to leave or avoid prostitution.

Because most people who are convicted on prostitution offenses enter into "diversion agreements" (community service requirements) and have the fee waived, today, five years later, there is only \$60,000 in that account and no programs have been funded.

SB 6370 ensures that persons arrested for prostitution offenses and who enter into diversion agreements will pay the assessed fine.

On behalf of persons (primarily women) working as prostitutes to make ends meet, or against their will, and who need our assistance to find other kinds of work, we urge you to support SB 6370.

Sincerely,

Runette Mitchell, Chair

The Seattle Women's Commission